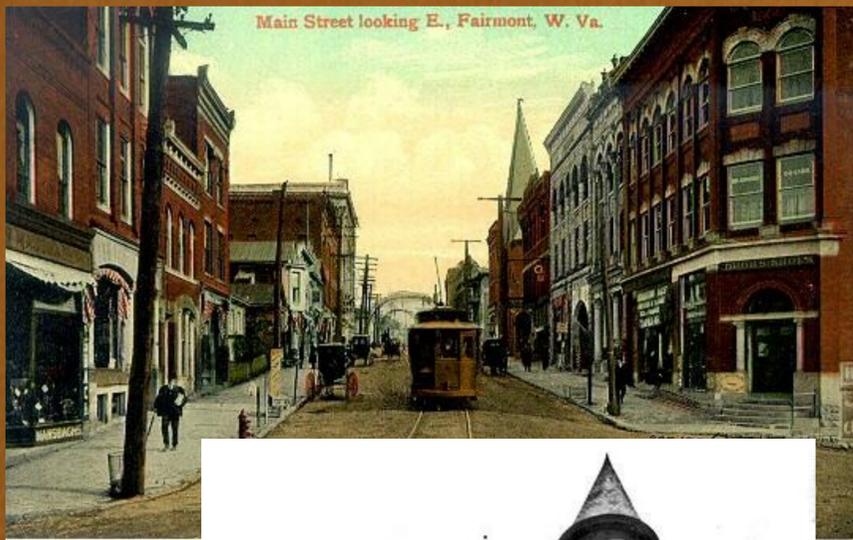


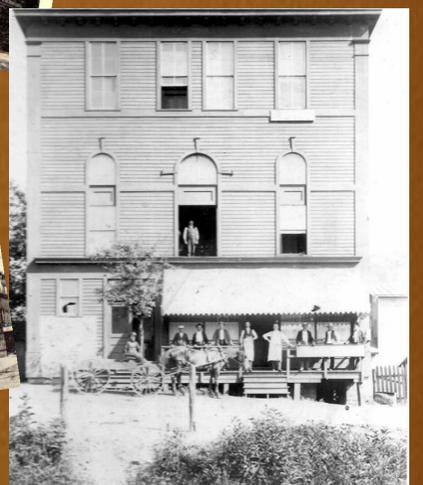
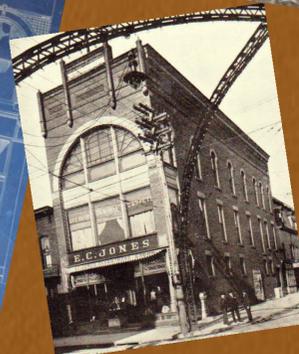
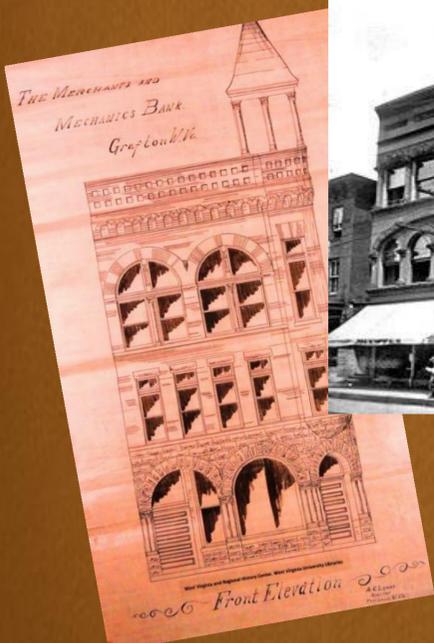
Andrew Charles Lyons was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania on October 2, 1873 to James A. and Mariah Chatinor Lyons. The family lived for several years in Huntington, where James served as superintendent of Stavo Works. Eventually James was transferred back to Pittsburgh where Andrew completed his education. By 1890, young Andrew apprenticed at the firm of Musch and Huemme, one of the leading architect firms in Pittsburgh, while he attended a school of architecture in the evenings. His work did not go unrecognized by architect and senior partner Soloman Musch.

During this period, Fairmont was still a small town of 2000 people but this was about to change. In 1908, William D. Straight, a local realtor, described the late 1890s as the period when an 'awakening' began. *"The mind of the investing world was forced to recognize the fact that Fairmont was the center, and must inevitably become the shipping point for the richest bituminous coal district in the world,"* he wrote in the Fairmont-West Virginian newspaper. Coal brought great wealth, and furnished abundant capital to carry out development underway in the county seat.

Musch dispatched Andrew, only 19 years old, to Fairmont to open an office in 1892. A year later, Musch made Lyons a partner. Lyons' early projects included the Skinner Building on Adams Street and the Merchants and Mechanics Bank in Grafton, both completed in 1894. His career in West Virginia was off to a start.



The Yeager Building, The Carr Building, Hutchinson Hardware, and the Monongah Opera house followed. Lyon's reputation grew as the town's borders expanded to the Southside Fairmont area (Beverly Pike) and Lyons began to design many of its grand homes. Along Fairmont Avenue, his work included the Methodist Episcopal Church (South), the Yost Flats and the McCoy Building.



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